

YAMAMURA et al.  
Appl. No. 10/671,438

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of the Rejections of the Office Action and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of Applicants' remarks below.

**Initial Comments**

Applicants have submitted with this Amendment and Response the following documents:

- 1) A Request for Continued Examination.
- 2) An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and references cited in said IDS. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these references and initial the attached form.
- 3) Reissue Declaration from Inventors and Assignees.
- 4) Verified translation of Priority Document.

The examiner is respectfully requested to consider these attached documents

**Remarks Regarding Section Entitled "Response to Arguments" in the Office Action**

In the Section entitled "Response to Arguments," the Examiner stated that he cannot find the signature of inventor Takashi Ukachi. Applicants have addressed this point on the Amendment and Response filed December 30, 2008. Solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution, Applicants have included a supplemental oath from the inventors and assignees with this Amendment and Response. Thus, this matter is moot and the Examiner's withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

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Remarks Regarding Section Entitled “Reissue Applications”

In the section entitled Section Entitled “Reissue Applications” claims 21-25 and 68-78 stand rejected as being base upon a defective reissue oath/declaration under 35 U.S.C. 251. Applicants traverse.

Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have submitted with this Amendment and Response a supplemental oath from the inventors and assignees. Thus, this rejection is moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Remarks Regarding Section 102/103

Claims 21-25 and 68-78 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 or in the alternative 35 U.S.C. 103 as anticipated or obvious in view of Okawa (JP10-158385). Applicants traverse.

Applicants have submitted a Verified Translation of the priority document with this Amendment and Response for the Examiner’s consideration. Because of this Verified Translation, Applicants submit that claims 21-25 and 68-78 is entitled to the priority date of the priority document. Since the claims are entitled to the priority date of the priority document, Okawa is not a proper Section 102 or Section 103 prior art.

For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

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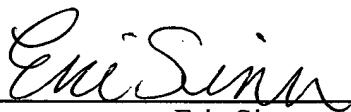
CONCLUSION

Having fully responded to the pending Office Action, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit an early Notice to that effect. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if additional information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:



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